Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An apparatus for supporting a plurality of joists, the apparatus comprising:

a joist rim having a web and first and second rim legs extending substantially perpendicularly from the web;

at least one opening through said web;

a joist attachment tab integrally formed in said web adjacent each said opening, each of said joist attachment tabs extending from the web at an angle relative to the web; and

at least one reinforcing rib corresponding to each said tab and provided in each said web adjacent said corresponding tab.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the angle between each attachment tab and the web is substantially ninety degrees.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each reinforcing rib is parallel to the adjacent tab.

4.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ribs comprise indentations that are embossed on a surface of the web.

5.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the joist attachment tabs has a plurality of fastener holes therethrough.

6.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first leg has a plurality of fastener holes therethrough.

7.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second leg has a plurality of fastener holes therethrough.

8.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the web has a plurality of fastener holes therethrough.

9.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one other reinforcing rib adjacent each opening.

10.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of said

openings through said web is formed by punching the web to form one of said

joist attachment tabs and bending the punched joist attachment tab such that

it protrudes outward from said web at said angle.